

Oct. 8, 1971.

Dear Parents,

This week our communication classes began. In spite of the many hours of discussion and planning by Mrs. Beasley, O.T., Miss Gannon, Speech Therapist, Miss Hagman, Psychologist, and Mrs. McNaughton, Teacher, the first day was very hectic! It was soon decided that it was impossible to organize the transportation of the children to and from a basement classroom, and that a more convenient location was needed. Luckily, a section of the Occupational Therapy wing was found to be available to us. The second day went much more smoothly!

Our objective is, through a teacher-therapist team working daily (for 30 minutes) with a small group, to make it possible for each child to use a picture-symbol vocabulary, which will serve either as a supplement to speech, as a substitute for speech, or as temporary aid to enlarge the child's inter-personal communication capabilities during the period when his speech is still developing. We hope that the picture-symbol vocabulary will enable each child to communicate his ideas more precisely and clearly and that through using this supplementary "vocabulary", each child will enjoy the satisfaction of participating equally in the "interchange" of discussion.

In our first few days we have concentrated upon the relationships between speech, body movement, and picture symbol. We are learning that there is another way to "talk" — with pictures. "Hello" and "good-bye" were the first two picture-symbols. "Man" and "woman" were introduced next.

A weekly letter will keep you informed of our activities.

Yours sincerely, Shirley McNaughton
Margie Beasley

